

## **Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, October 2, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

### **COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.**

Mexico City, October 2, 1833.

*My dear Sir,* A few days [ago] I wrote you on the subject of T., and advised an immediate occupancy of the disputed Territory. I hope we shall [not] differ in opinion on that question, and when I recollect the advice you gave, and the opinion you expressed to Mr. Monroe in relation to East Florida, a case presenting features nothing like so strong as the present, and with not a tithe of the circumstances to justify the proceeding which we have in the T. affair, I cannot doubt but you will concur with me in the propriety of the movement. One half the Garrison from Cantonment Jessup would be sufficient for all purposes, still if the course recommended be adopted, it would be better to send the whole force. In addition to the old church and other public buildings hitherto occupied by the Mexican Troops as Barracks, Gen. Leavenworth<sup>1</sup> or the Officer commanding might construct other buildings and a stockade fort if deemed necessary, as Timber is very Convenient; and the expence of subsisting the Troops at Nacogdoches would be very little more than where they are, a small additional expence in transportation by Waggon. The Territory once occupied by any portion of our Troops, and the people of T. would themselves do the work. they require nothing but our countenance—nothing but an assurance that they would not be rejected by us. There are at present in Mexico two Gentlemen from T. bearers of a petition to the Supreme Governmt. for permission to assume an Independent State Government and be separated from Coahuila.<sup>2</sup> it will be denied them, in which event say the agents, “ *We will immediately declare ourselves Independent*”, and I know positively that one of the Gentlemen, has already written to his Constituents informing them of the probability

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of their petition being rejected, and advising that the minds of the people be prepared to hold a Convention immediately on his return, and declare their Independence. I do not like to commit Names to paper lest my letter should be intercepted, but the same individual has spoken with me freely on the subject, and I have listened to all he wished to say, without committing myself to any thing. He declares that he is decidedly for attaching that Country to the U.S. and that nothing short of the Desert will do as the boundary. That the application for a State Govt. is all humbug, and only meant to prepare themselves the better for their final movement: That no one thinks of remaining Connected with Mexico longer than the arrival of a Convenient period for separation etc. etc. All this I listen to, and except concurring with him in opinion that it would be better for all parties that T. was united with us I express nothing that would commit either myself or the Govern't to that of Mexico, were all I have said known.

1 Henry Leavenworth, brevetted brigadier-general.

2 Three agents were appointed by the Texas Convention of 1833 to carry the constitution to Mexico City and request the recognition of Texas as a state in the Mexican federation. G. P. Garrison (in his *Texas*, p. 185) says that Stephen F. Austin was the only one of them to attend. This letter from Butler indicates that two men were in Mexico on this errand, but the *Austin Papers* published by the American Historical Association, *Annual Report* for 1922, vol. II., do not mention the presence of another besides Austin, and his letters up to this date are of a contrary tenor to what Butler states in the next sentence.

Pray write me soon and fully, not only officially through the Department of state but privately and freely under your own hand. Let me know all you wish and all you intend, and rely on my efforts and co-operation with you to Death. I will Negotiate or fight just as you think best. I am frank 16 and speak to you in all the Confidence of an old and tried friend when I say that my preference is for the latter. We have abundant cause for quarrel and it would cost less by one half, aye two thirds to take, than to purchase the Territory. In truth to take it would cost nothing, or rather nothing more than the expence of removing from

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the Cantonment to Nacogdoches. Think well on this, and I know your decision will be right. Santa Anna is a vile hypocrite, and most unprincipled Man. you can have no hold on his Moral principles because he is without any. count therefore on nothing but what we may be prepared to enforce.

always and faithfully your friend and Most Obedt. Sevt.